

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A bicycle component comprising:
an operator actuating member configured and arranged to be manually operated; and
a positioning mechanism mechanically coupled to said operator actuating member, said positioning mechanism including
first and second members arranged and configured to engage each other in response to manual operation of said operator actuating member, and
a buffering member mounted to at least one said first and second members in an area such that said buffering member is contacted between first and second engagement surfaces of said first and second members, respectively.
2. The bicycle component according to claim 1, wherein said buffering member is a coating applied to at least one of said first and second members and arranged to prevent direct contact between said first and second members.
3. The bicycle component according to claim 2, wherein said coating includes an elastomeric material.
4. The bicycle component according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said first and second members has a recess with said buffering member mounted therein, said buffering member extending slightly out of said recess to prevent direct contact between said first and second members.
5. The bicycle component according to claim 4, wherein said buffering member includes an elastomeric material.
6. The bicycle component according to claim 1, wherein said buffering member includes a shock absorbing material.
7. The bicycle component according to claim 1, wherein

said buffering member includes a plurality of separate buffering elements.

8. The bicycle component according to claim 1, wherein one of said first and second members of said positioning mechanism includes a ratchet element and the other of said first and second members includes a pawl element configured to engage said ratchet element.

9. The bicycle component according to claim 8, wherein said one of said first and second members with said ratchet element includes a winding element configured to receive an inner wire of a bicycle control cable, and said pawl element is operatively coupled to said operator actuating member to selectively release said winding element upon moving said operator actuating member.

10. The bicycle component according to claim 1, wherein one of said first and second members of said positioning mechanism includes a first linkage element, and the other of said first and second members includes a second linkage element.

11. The bicycle component according to claim 10, wherein one of said first and second linkage elements has a chain guide coupled thereto.

12. The bicycle component according to claim 10, wherein one of said first and second linkage elements has a pair of adjustment screws threadedly coupled thereto, and the other of said first and second linkage elements has a pair of abutment surfaces arranged to selectively engage said adjustment screws.